

Emergency Wrecker Licenses

Wichita Police Department



October 6, 2020



Background

- Title 3.49 requires emergency wrecker services to be licensed in order to participate in a rotation list to respond to traffic collisions.
- Costs for these tows are paid by citizens involved in collisions when they request WPD to call a company on their behalf.

Background

The purpose of licensing wrecker services is to:

- Control response time to auto collisions
- Provide guidelines regarding clean up of collision scenes
- Offer protection to citizens by standardizing fees when the citizen is not in a position to call for competitive pricing

Background

The current licensing structure does not:

- Allow the City to deny a license based on criminal history
- Allow the City to suspend or revoke a license due to commission of a crime
- Allow the City to refuse to renew a license due to commission of crime
- Allow suspension or non-renewal for charging fees for work that has not been completed

Analysis

The ordinance amendments:

- Add a condition that violations of laws of moral turpitude are grounds to deny a license, suspend or revoke.
- Clarify that billing for services that have not been completed is grounds for suspension.
- Allow the Chief of Police, or designee, to issue a short suspension immediately or a longer suspension with 5 days notice due to criminal activity.
- Move the City Council to be the appeal panel while the Chief of Police issues the initial order of suspension or revocation.

Analysis

- Authorizing denials, suspensions, and revocations due to the commission of crimes protects the citizens
- Allowing the Chief of Police to make these decisions streamlines the process and holds companies accountable
- Wrecker services retain their right to a full hearing in front of the City Council

Analysis

- Stakeholders were provided a copy of the proposed ordinance. WPD staff met with a representative of the emergency wrecker services.
- One revision to the proposed amendments was suggested by a representative of the wrecker services. It was incorporated into the final version.

Staff Recommendation

8

Place the ordinance on first reading and authorize necessary signatures.

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